

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A dust cover for a steering shaft for closing a column hole between a steering shaft penetrating the column hole provided on a panel which separates an engine room and a vehicle compartment, and the panel, comprising:

a bush made of low frictional material, through which the steering shaft penetrates;
a main body of dust seal made of rubber, provided with a plurality of bellows in an axial direction of the steering shaft and arranged between the bush and the panel, for sealing a clearance thereof, said main body of dust seal further comprising a tubular reinforcement member integrally formed within a peripheral installation portion; and
an annular seal lip arranged at least on the engine room side of the bush, in contact with an outer peripheral surface of the steering shaft.

Claim 2 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein the main body of dust seal is obtained by integrally forming the plurality of bellows by continuously forming end portions of bellows on each outer periphery side.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein the main body of dust seal is made integral by forming the plurality of bellows separately, fitting end portions thereof on the outer periphery side into an edge of the column hole, and fitting end portions thereof on the inner periphery side into the bush.

Claim 4 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, further comprising a fixing member for surrounding end portions of the plurality of bellows on the

inner periphery side, and tightening the end portions on the inner periphery side to fix the plurality of bellows to the bush.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 4, wherein the fixing member is fixed to the bush by caulking an end portion of the bush on the inner periphery side in a state where the fixing member is fitted in the bush and the end portions of the plurality of bellows on the inner periphery side.

Claim 6 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 4, wherein a hook is provided at an end portion of the bush, the hook being elastically deformed in a radial direction to allow the fixing member to pass through the hook when the fixing member is fitted into the end portion of the bush, the hook serving to prevent the fixing member fitted in the bush from coming off with a tip of the hook caught by the end portion of the fixing member after the fixing member is fitted into the bush, and the hook being used for fixing the fixing member by snap locking.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 4, wherein an edge of the fixing member for pressing the bellows is curled outside.

Claim 8 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein the bellows has at least one annular projected portion projecting toward either the engine room side or the vehicle compartment side, and the projected portion being formed of two inclined portions which incline in an opposite direction to each other with respect to the bush axis between an end portion on an inner periphery side and an end portion on an

outer periphery side; and

one apex portion formed by a curved surface continuously joining the inclined portions.

Claim 9 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 8, wherein a portion of an inclined portion of the bellows which is closest to the vehicle compartment side in the vicinity of end portions of the plurality of bellows on the inner periphery side is in contact with a portion of other bellows in an initial state where no external force is exerted.

Claim 10 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 8, wherein the projected portion projects toward the engine room side, and a curvature of the apex portion of the bellows which is closest to the vehicle compartment side is larger than a curvature of an apex portion of other bellows.

Claim 11 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 8, wherein an apex portion of the projected portion is formed close to the end portion on the inner periphery side of the bellows or close to the end portion on the outer periphery side of the bellows.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 8, wherein a circular groove ~~having~~ is formed on the end portion on the outer periphery side of the bellows which is close to the engine room side or the vehicle compartment side.

Claim 13 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein an inner peripheral surface of the bush has a groove for viscous lubricant.

Claim 14 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein an outer peripheral surface of the bush has a stepped portion for preventing the bellows from coming off.

Claim 15 (original): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein even at an end portion of the bush close to the vehicle compartment, there is arranged an annular seal lip which is in contact with an outer peripheral surface of the steering shaft.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the main body of dust seal in contact with at least an inner peripheral surface of the column hole comprises a rough surface with fine concave and convex portions having a reduced coefficient of friction.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein a portion on which at least bellows themselves of the plurality of bellows of the main body of dust seal are capable of coming into contact with each other, or a portion in contact between the same bellows has a rough surface with fine concave and convex portions for reducing contact area.